



# Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## Press Release

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Statement

by H.E. Mr. Pak Tok Hun

Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative

On Agenda Item 44 and 107:

“Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields; Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit; Report of the Secretary-General”

New York, 28 July 2009

Mr. President,

It is a century-long common aspiration of the humankind to live in a new peaceful and prosperous world, free from aggression and war.

Contrary to the expectations of the humankind with the end of the cold war, the world peace and security continues deteriorating due to the highhandedness and arbitrariness of the super power and all forms of conflicts.

It is worth recalling that in the past, military attacks were launched on a sovereign state on the pretext of “humanitarian intervention”, and today, aggressions and interventions are ever more undisguised and even justified under the signboard of a “war on terror”, infringing upon sovereignty and killing a large number of innocent people.

This reality requires the UN member states to seriously review the responsibility and role of the UN for maintaining the international peace and security with a view to taking appropriate practical steps.

The deliberation on the issue of “Responsibility to Protect” is, in our view, also linked to enhancing the UN’s role for conflict resolution. Nevertheless, this is so complicated and sensitive as it is based on the concept of “humanitarian intervention” which was already rejected at the United Nations.

Today, many countries are expressing concern over the “Responsibility to Protect” calling for the international community to intervene in those situations whereby genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity are committed, by mobilizing all the coercive measures such as use of force.

The concern is, first of all, whether this theory is in conformity with the principles of respect for sovereignty, equality and non-interference in others’ internal affairs stipulated in the UN Charter.

The international community can encourage and assist sovereign states in their efforts to fulfill its responsibility to protect their own people, but it cannot act like a master in place of their governments.

Second concern is whether the military intervention can be as effective as envisaged by the “Responsibility to Protect” in saving the lives of people and conflict resolutions.

Ironically, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are a testimonial to the fact that the military interventions under whatever reasons have always entailed ever more serious human rights violations and thus further devastate the situation.

Last but not least, the third concern is that the concept of “Responsibility to Protect” may be used for justifying the interference in the internal affairs of weak and small countries.

If this concept is to really contribute to protection of civilians, we should be able to apply it to massive killings of innocent people in Afghanistan and Gaza without exception. Regretfully, these cases cannot be even tabled at the Security Council because of the involvement of the super power. This is the reality we are facing today.

We hope that the abovementioned concerns should be addressed in the course of deliberations.

Mr. President,

My delegation is of the view that it is all the more urgent to take steps for fundamental resolutions of war and conflicts within the current framework rather than making a new protection arrangement.

To this end, just international relations based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, equality and non-interference in others' internal affairs should be established with no further delay.

These principles stipulated in the UN Charter constitute a cornerstone of the international relations, and the only world to be built based on these principles will be free from domination and subjugation, aggression and wars.

At the same time, we have to encourage peaceful solution of present conflicts through dialogue and negotiations without foreign intervention and reject all sorts of acts instigating confrontation and conflicts.

Mr. President,

The Government of the DPRK will fulfill its responsibility for firmly safeguarding its sovereignty and dignity from ever increasing military threats of foreign forces, thus contributing actively to peace and stability in Korean peninsula and beyond.